

Soviets Said To Have Lost 12 Spacemen

STANFORD, Calif., April 30 (UPI)—The Russians have lost a dozen cosmonauts in space flight mishaps, a historian who has made a special study of the subject declared today.

Vladimir Komarov, killed on his return to earth April 24, was the first announced Soviet space mission fatality. But Julius Epstein, a research associate at the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace, at Stanford University said American authorities know of 11 other cosmonauts who were lost.

Epstein, a native of Austria, said his Soviet space research was a personal project not sanctioned by the University.

The U.S. policy of not disclosing Soviet space disasters that the Russians do not disclose is based on the State Department's desire "not to embarrass the Russians," he said.

Russian space men who have disappeared without official explanation included Piotr Dolgow, Serenty Shiborin, Wassilievitch Zowodovsky, Alexei Belokonev, Iwan Kascheur, Alexis Gratzev and Jennady Michailov, he said.